London Mission
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
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Embracing Change As We Strive Towards Excellence

Trinidad and Tobago Celebrates 49 years of Independence

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DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION FOR THE 49TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

Photos: Darrin des Vignes & Lawson Lovell

Photo montage of Independence Day celebrations at the High Commissioner's residence on Friday 2nd September and the Interfaith Church Service on Sunday 4th September

On September 2nd, 2011, High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas hosted a diplomatic reception to commemorate Trinidad and Tobago's 49th Anniversary of Independence at his residence. In attendance, prestigious guests such as Baroness Floella Benjamin and Ruth Mills, Mayor for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, were among those savouring a delightful evening of cuisine, song and dance. The cultural aspect of the evening was narrated by Ms Melanie Abrahams (artistic director) and involved a medley of steelpan music, spoken word and Indian dance.

High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas delivered the following speech:

"It is my pleasure to welcome you to today's reception to commemorate Trinidad and Tobago's 49th anniversary of Independence.

As we approach half a century of sovereignty, it is a time we are given to reflect on, where we have come from, what we have achieved and where we are heading.

Since attaining Independence from Great Britain on August 31st 1962 we have accomplished much. Trinidad and Tobago is a very small twin island state with a population of some 1.3 million yet we are well known not only as a significant energy producer or for our unique flora and fauna but as the country which has produced

- *The only new musical instrument of the 20th century – the steel pan*
- *Has its own unique carnival*
- *Has produced Nobel Laureates*
- *Beauty queens, and*
- *Cricket records.*

In the past 49 years we have also learned many things. We have recognized the need to invest in our human capital and to ensure the continued existence of tolerance and harmony in a multiethnic and multicultural society in which, in the words of our National Anthem, "every creed and race find an equal place".

This approach, underpinned by strong democratic principles and the rule of law, has led to a climate conducive to creativity and empowerment and the development of a rich and vibrant culture which is continuously evolving.

I highlight the diversity and creativity of our people as I believe that this resilience and creativity are what will carry us forward to the next phase and enable us to embrace change as we strive toward excellence. Indeed, it is our attitudes and our lifestyles which influence the ways in which we manage our resources in the quest for development.

And speaking of the next phase - next year as you know will be

an important one for the United Kingdom - London will host the 2012 Olympics and Her Majesty the Queen will commemorate her Diamond Jubilee. It will be of equal significance to Trinidad and Tobago as we will also mark our 50th anniversary of Independence from the United Kingdom in 2012.

We propose to commemorate this milestone in a fitting way with the establishment of a Trinidad and Tobago Village which will be mounted over a five week period at a venue in London and will showcase various aspects of Trinidad and Tobago's culture including, inter alia, dance, drama, literature, film, cuisine, fashion, as well as business and tourism opportunities. It is an exciting prospect, one we are working actively toward and one in which we would welcome your participation.

Today however, I want to take the opportunity to thank you for joining me, my family and staff in celebrating Trinidad and Tobago's 49th anniversary of Independence. Please join me in raising a toast to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago."

About the Fund

Created and established in November 2010 by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the Children's Life Fund's aegis is to provide urgent relief for children, assisting those who live in the shadow of disease and illness. The Fund has also received support from the renewed charity medical Schriners Children's Hospital. In addition, all Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament contribute 5% of their salary to the Fund.

children's Life Fund

Children's Life Fund

Account Number: **50927848**
Sort Code: **204734**

Trinidad and Tobago High Commission (Children's Life Fund)
Barclays Bank, West Halkin Street, London SW1X 8JE

NEW ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LAUNCHED AT THE HOUSE OF LORDS

The inaugural meeting of the new All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Trinidad and Tobago was held in the House of Lords on Tuesday 28th June, 2011.

The meeting was chaired by Baroness Floella Benjamin OBE, a national of Trinidad and Tobago, who currently holds peerage in the Parliament of the United Kingdom. Baroness Benjamin, in conveying her enthusiasm about the formation of the group, hailed His Excellency Garvin Nicholas as a man with foresight and wisdom for seeking to establish the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Trinidad and Tobago to promote the interests of Trinidad and Tobago in the United Kingdom.

A number of Peers and MPs were present including Baroness Berridge (Vice Chair of the Group), Baroness Howells, Mr. Stephen Pound MP, as well as a number of prominent nationals and representatives of Trinidad and Tobago.

In his address, High Commissioner Nicholas spoke about the potential benefits that would materialise from the establishment of the Group and also highlighted a number of challenges/issues that would require the immediate attention of the Group. These included:

- The Air Passenger Duty
- The imminent reclassification of Angostura bitters as an alcoholic product
- Security cooperation between the United Kingdom and Trinidad and Tobago
- The changing Student Visa system.

At the meeting, discussions also centred on how Trinidad and Tobago should position itself to take optimal advantage of 2012 to ensure that Trinidad and Tobago's plans to commemorate its 50th anniversary of independence and to showcase the very essence of Trinidad and Tobago to the rest of the world are well articulated and executed. The High Commissioner ensured the gathering that he would remain seized of the opportunity and welcomed the collaboration that would emanate from the All Party Parliamentary Group.

All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) are informal, cross-party, interest groups which consist of a minimum twenty (20) persons, comprising members of the governing party, the Opposition and cross benchers. APPGs can be wide-ranging in nature as they can be formed to encourage closer ties with other countries or to discuss/address a particular area of concern or social interest.

High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas receiving the cheque from Mr and Mrs Thorne.

June 10, 2011: His Excellency the High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas received £10,000 (TT$110,000) on behalf of the Honourable Prime Minister Kamla Persad Bissessar from Mr and Mrs Andy Thorne. This sum was donated to the Children's Life Fund.

The money was pledged to the Children's Life Fund when the Honourable Prime Minister visited the United Kingdom in March 2011.

The Children's Life Fund was created to provide funding and critical support specifically for children needing life saving, tertiary-level health care services. This Fund was launched in August 2010 by the Honourable Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago who stated during her address to the UN General Assembly 2010: "It is our belief that children must not die in the dawn of life in my country - or in any other country - because they cannot afford health care. There must be new arrangements and relationships between countries that have advanced medical technology and those without so that children and vulnerable groups of the poorest nations can grow as healthy human beings and achieve their full potential. It is only when this is done that the world will progress. We have a duty to the future. It will be measured by how we fulfill our responsibilities today."

His Excellency the High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas has reiterated the main goal of the Fund which is to provide access to life saving surgery abroad to children when that speciality is not available in Trinidad and Tobago.

Photos: Darrin des Vignes

His Excellency Garvin Nicholas, High Commissioner, addresses members of the APPG in the House of Lords.

Statement by His Excellency Garvin Nicholas on the commemoration of Emancipation Day.

Sunday 31 July 2011, The Tabernacle W11

It is a pleasure to address you today as we commemorate Emancipation Day 2011 here in London.

Emancipation Day in Trinidad and Tobago was declared a national holiday on 1st August 1985 (*first country in the world to do so*), one hundred and fifty one years after the Emancipation Bill which brought an end to enslavement, came into effect. Notably, today we celebrate Emancipation Day in the very country in which the historic Bill was passed.

Emancipation, in its simplest interpretation, could be understood as the act of setting free from the power of another. Within this context, 1st August is the Anniversary of the date that our African ancestors became freed men, women and children. Emancipation is much more than that though.

The end of enslavement of our ancestors under the law, did not bring an end to the suffering of the formerly enslaved. They received no compensation for their work and had limited representation in the legislatures.

Over the three hundred plus years of the transatlantic trade of African people, they were viewed as sub-human and this has contributed to the discrimination on the basis of ethnicity and stereotyping in these modern times.

Successive generations continue to be trapped by the negative aspersions cast upon them, together with socio-economic inequality and ethnic prejudice.

The consequences of enslavement persist within the Global community even to this day.

In recognition of these atrocities, the United Nations in 2007 declared 25 March as the annual 'International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade'. This in my view may well be no more than an act of symbolism, unless some more substantial effort is made.

Further, the UN has declared 2011 as the 'International Year for People of African Descent'. In fact, the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action acknowledge People of African Descent as a specific victim group who continue to suffer discrimination based on their ethnicity as the historic legacy of the transatlantic slave trade.

All this, yet Racism and Ethnic intolerance continue to plague societies throughout the World.

During this year, the International Year for People of African Descent, it is expected that greater effort will be made to strengthen national actions and regional and international cooperation to ensure that people of African descent fully enjoy economic, cultural, social, civil and political rights.

I believe that we must take this opportunity to take a hard honest look at ourselves!

There is no doubt that the initiative of the government to embark on a number of programmes to commemorate the year, including, essay competitions, Storytelling competitions, an African History Quiz, Art Murals, an African Film Festival and symposia and public lectures, will go a long way to sensitise and remind us of where we are and from whence we came.

We must however, decide on where we want to go!

We must understand that we are a people of great ability, creativity and strength.

We are not victims and we are not people who seek pity.

Our ancestors, the ones who were put through the greatest injustice, fought and overcame so that we could have greater opportunity and they did so with great pride!

We must use the opportunity and build on it. Not constantly follow leaders who would have us be consigned to a syndrome of dependency and who would make us believe that making unrealistic demands on the public purse is patriotic.

As a people we have to be responsible, in public and in private.

The concept of Enslavement of people did not originate during the period of Colonialism and Enslavement of the African people. Enslavement is described in the very early days of the Old Testament. As you would recall, Moses freed the enslaved out of Egypt.

In almost every society there has been an element of enslavement and this is the reason we continue to lag behind. We have not been mentally Emancipated.

When we are mentally Emancipated, we will learn to eat little and live long, we will make sacrifice to educate our children, we will save to open a business, we will stop killing one another like dogs in the street.

Photos: Darrin des Vignes

His Excellency Garvin Nicholas delivering his statement on Emancipation

The need for psychological emancipation was one of the factors that contributed to the formation of the Pan Africanism movement. The period when giants like Henry Sylvester-Williams, Marcus Garvey, George Padmore and Dubois was dominated by the burning desire to remove the mental shackles of colonialism, which attracted an enthusiastic promotion of the return of the African Diaspora to their ancestral lands.

In fact, it was here in London, in 1900, that the first Pan African Conference was convened by the Trinidadian barrister Henry Sylvester-Williams. He expressed his belief that "the time had come when the voice of Black men should be heard independently in their own affairs". The African Association which he formed in 1896 was intended to challenge racism, paternalism and imperialism.

We as a people we will only be heard independently in our own affairs, when we demand respect!

We will only be respected when we earn respect!

No one will respect us if we have

We have to bring something to the table!

Ethnic intolerance is as a result of more than just the colour of our skin!

It is also as a result of a perception of who we are!

If you are perceived as beggars or thieves we will be shunned and made fun of!

If however, we are perceived as entrepreneurs, teachers, contributors to society, we will be embraced and welcomed!

Why is it, other smaller festivals are given greater prominence as to venue and space, yet the largest street party in Europe is pushed into a little corner of London?

Today the UK is reaching out to countries that can give them something. We must become sought after for our creativity and genius NOT for our finger prints!

Franklin Roosevelt is reported to have said: "True individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence. People who are hungry and out of a job are the stuff of which dictatorships are made."

The distinction can be clearly seen between countries which have embraced a holistic notion of emancipation which includes economic independence and political stability as opposed to those countries which still remain dependent on external aid and lack political vision.

On another front, one also sees how the different reflections of our African heritage are exhibited through culture. For example, Trinidad and Tobago has now become world renowned for its Carnival and it has been dubbed by many as the Mecca of Carnival. In recent decades there have been numerous initiatives to export Trinidad and Tobago's Carnival to various parts of the world where there is a Caribbean Diaspora. The annual Notting Hill Carnival in London is one such example.

These initiatives have spread to The Caribbean, the United States, Canada, the UK, Europe, China and Africa.

Although the African identity was stifled by the slave masters so many years ago, it is commendable that following emancipation, our African ancestors were able to revive some of the aspects of their culture. The drumming that we enjoyed earlier this evening, Carnival, Calypso, steel pan stand as a testimony to that fact.

Trinidad and Tobago's culture has been enriched by our African ancestors.

We must stop marking time!
The time has come for us to propel ourselves forward!

In moving forward, let us acknowledge the struggles our ancestors endured for freedom, and continue to build on the legacy that has been passed to us. Let us not dwell on the past!

His Excellency High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas joins in celebrating the Queen's Birthday at Trooping the Colour.

His Excellency Garvin Nicholas speaking with the Right Honourable David Cameron

His Excellency High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas attended the ceremony of Trooping the Colour on Horse Guards Parade on Saturday 11 June 2011 to celebrate The Queen's Official Birthday.

The Invitation was issued by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, the Right Honourable David Cameron. His Excellency was treated to tea in the Garden and State Rooms in the Prime Minister's Office prior to watching the ceremony from the Prime Minister's stand at 11am.

A history of Trooping the Colour

The Trooping of the Colour dates back to around 1700. During those early days of land warfare, 'colours' (the brightly-coloured flags of a battalion) were used as rallying points so they would be visible above the smog and dust of battle.

It became customary to carry these colours down the ranks at the end of a day's march and to solemnly accompany them to the 'billet' where they were kept for the night.

The billet represented the headquarters of a unit and the battalion's assembly point in an emergency. The aim of the ceremony was to familiarise each man with the coloured flags that identified his unit, and to guarantee that all ranks would recognise their assembly point, especially when stationed in an unfamiliar town.

Each morning, the colours were escorted from the billet back to their position in the battalion ranks. Consequently, the colours came to express the spirit of the regiment and were held in the highest regard.

In time, the Regimental Colour has taken on a greater significance. Its folds of embroidered cloth are an important object of reverence and a memorial to lost comrades.

The aspects of the parade have changed very little since the age when it was known as 'Lodging the Colours'. The significant difference however, is that only one colour, the Queen's Colour, is 'Trooped' by the Household Division today, wearing full dress, in honour of her Birthday. Hence, it is also known as 'The Queen's Birthday Parade', although 21st April is the actual birth date of the Queen.

The earliest records of 'Trooping the Colour' can be found in order books of the Grenadier and Cold Stream Guards of 250 years ago.

"The Colours be always trooped at the mounting and dismounting of the guard, except in very bad weather" 18 Feb. 1749

According to the Coldstream Order Book for 17 June 1768, the King ordered the Grenadier Battalion to mount guard 'on the day which His Majesty's birthday is ordered to be kept'. In 1806, on 3 June, 'The General and Staff Officers belonging to the District who are resident in or near London are requested to meet the Duke of Cambridge on the Parade at Horse Guards at 10 o'clock on the morning of the next Anniversary of the King's Birthday, to be fully dressed in Embroidered Cloths'.

From 1807 to 1810 orders were issued for Parades on the birthdays of both the King and Queen, the one in June and the other in January. They were not held from 1811 to 1820 because of King George III's illness, except in 1813 for the Queen, but from the accession of King George IV they became, with a few exceptions and notably the two World Wars, an annual event.

The guards, in the modern ceremony today, are assembled in two ranks, a reminder of Wellington's masterful tactics at Waterloo. A reminder too that these are soldiers that stand to give service for the Sovereign and Nation when called upon to do so. Colourful and spectacular as this parade is, it used to be on an even grander scale. The very largest Birthday Parade was held on Hyde Park in 1920 when there were 10 complete guards on parade. Going back further still, there was an age when the monarchs of Europe and the noble families from distant lands would gather in London to celebrate an Imperial Birthday.

The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago strengthens diplomatic relations with the Kingdom of Morocco

Citizens of Trinidad and Tobago wishing to travel to the Kingdom of Morocco via London will now have their visas granted to them upon arrival at the entry point in the Kingdom of Morocco.

Citizens will have the one requirement to submit an application to the Moroccan Consulate General in London before their trip to Morocco. This can be facilitated by the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission in London.

This development is as a direct result of the intervention of H.E. Garvin Nicholas, High Commissioner to the UK.

Photos: Darrin des Vignes

His Excellency Garvin Nicholas with Her Highness Princess Lalla Joumala Alaoui

The Kingdom of Morocco, through its Ambassador to the UK, Her Highness Princess Lalla Joumalla, has expressed its keen desire to work with Trinidad and Tobago on further initiatives that will benefit both nations.

George Padmore Commemorative Plaque

One of the most influential political thinkers of the 20th century was commemorated this summer with a heritage plaque in North London. Number 22 Cranleigh Street in Camden is where George Padmore lived at from 1941 to 1957 with his partner and collaborator, Dorothy Pizer. The address was a big part of the political landscape of pre and post war London, becoming a focal point for anti-colonial activists from around the world.

George Padmore was born Malcolm Ivan Meredith Nurse in Arouca, Trinidad, on the 28th June 1903. He worked as a journalist until 1924 then left for university in the USA, intending to study medicine. However, he changed his mind switching to political science and then on to law at Howard University. However, he did not complete his degree, as the Communist Party, which he had joined in 1927, sent him to Moscow. There he served on the Moscow Council before being sent to Vienna then Hamburg on Party affairs.

However, with the lead up to World War 2, the USSR's politics on western colonialism changed and a disillusioned Padmore resigned from the Communist Party. He moved to Britain continuing his work as an anti-imperialist and pro-equality journalist writing for African, African-American and Caribbean newspapers, and publishing books and newspapers in the UK. In 1945, he was the main organizer of the legendary Fifth Pan African Congress to campaign for independence for all colonies.

When Ghana became the first West African colony to gain independence in 1957, Padmore moved to Ghana to take up the position of Advisor on African Affairs to Nkrumah, the first president of the independent country. George Padmore died after a short illness in London on September 23, 1959, where he had gone to receive medical treatment.

The plaque was organised by the Nubian Jak Community Trust, in collaboration with the High Commissions for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and Ghana respectively, and Camden Council. It was unveiled 98 years to the day that Padmore was born. The unveiling was performed by His Excellency Garvin Nicholas - High Commissioner of Trinidad & Tobago, His Excellency Professor Kwaku Danso-Boafo - High Commissioner of Ghana, His Worship Councillor Abdul Quadir - Mayor of Camden, and Jak Beula, along with members of the public and press.

High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas presents two gifts to the Royal Couple on behalf of Trinidad and Tobago

Photos: Darrin des Vignes

High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas with tenor pan from Pamberi's Nestor Sullivan and Angostura's bespoke blended rum displayed in a crystal decanter.

His Excellency Garvin Nicholas was the sole representative for Trinidad and Tobago at the Royal Wedding on Friday 29th April, held at the Westminster Abbey.

The High Commissioner presented gifts to the Royal Couple on behalf of the Government and People of Trinidad and Tobago.

The High Commissioner stated:
"We have been very fortunate to receive two iconic gifts for me to pass to the young Royal couple.

The first is a unique blend of Angostura rum specially crafted for the wedding.
The Angostura master blender describes it as: 'A one of a kind Angostura rum blend that was aged especially in charred casks to ensure optimal cask reactions of the rums during ageing.

It is a rich, dark chocolate, luxurious rum from Trinidad and Tobago that exudes a complex aroma of hints of caramel, spice, chocolate, banana with a smooth lingering taste of apples, toffee mellowed out with hints of vanilla.'

The rum was presented in a crystal decanter that can be reused over a lifetime.

The second is a specially branded tenor pan, supplied by Nestor Sullivan, the Manager of the Pamberi Steel Orchestra. It is made of the finest chrome in Trinidad and Tobago and was specially tuned.

The instrument was made by Augustus Peters of La Canoa Road, Santa Cruz. The pan case and chrome stand were custom built by Sarah's Pan Case of 208 Eastern Main Road, San Juan.

"It is hoped that these two gifts, the first which represents our finest rum by a company that has proven itself internationally and secondly our national instrument, the only musical instrument to be invented last century, will help to further market our nation and its products as well as signal our commitment to strong bi-lateral relations for the next generation of Royals."

Trinidad and Tobago wins gold for "The World's Favourite Bean....Cacao" at the Chelsea Flower Show.

Photos: Darrin des Vignes

Ms. Joan Wilson, chief designer of the T&T presentation at the 2011 Chelsea Flower Show

May 24, 2011: The Trinidad and Tobago Horticultural Society received yet another gold medal at the world renowned Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Show, in the United Kingdom, for their 2011 display – The World's Favourite Bean .... Cacao on May 24th 2011.

This result represented the fifteenth gold medal that the Trinidad and Tobago Horticultural Society has received and by all accounts would not be the last. It also represents the thirteenth gold for its Chief Designer Ms. Joan Wilson.

Founded in 1913, the Chelsea Flower Show is famous around the world as the premier event of its kind. Gardeners spend close to one month creating designs over an eleven acre site in Chelsea's Royal Hospital Gardens.

Trinidad and Tobago did not disappoint as the general public was treated to a rich profusion of vibrant and exotic flowers as they soaked up the pure horticultural indulgence.

The Trinidad and Tobago team was headed by Ms. Joan Wilson past President and Chief Designer. The other members of the team included Janice Benjamin, Rosemarie James, Joan Hampton and Chan Ramkissoon.

Ms Wilson in her design displayed the 'dark... green... dense... and the tropical scenery of the Cocoa estates'. The display reflected the lush flora and fauna of the environment completing the rich array of cocoa pods and cocoa beans under a cocoa shed. The grounds of the Royal Hospital in Chelsea came alive with the sights and smells of the finest collection of flowers from Trinidad and Tobago.

The design featured as its main showpiece Trinidad and Tobago's superior Cocoa, the famous Trinitario hybrid, developed as a result of a cross between the Criollo and Forastero varieties, ranked among the best in the world. It is unique, whether crafted into exotic spa elixirs or used by master Chocolatiers in Europe.

Visitors were drawn to the display because of its colour, vibrancy, uniqueness and in particular, the cocoa house accompanied by the donkey carrying baskets of cocoa pods.

Officials from the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission represented the High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas who was out of the country on official duty at the Show. His Excellency, when informed of the winning display sent his congratulations to the 'Golden' team.

Feature Address by Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar at the launch of the Making Life Important (MLI) Programme

WEDNESDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2011 EXCEL PRIMARY SCHOOL MAIN STREET, BEETHAM GARDENS

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar delivering the feature address at the launch.

Remember the words…
"Hope springs eternal from the human breast?"

I am often guided in life by the words of that well known poem because I believe that no matter the circumstances, people generally should always have hope. No matter how bad things have been, there is always the hope that they will get better. Even when people do not always act their best, we must never lose the belief in their potential to become someone better in the days ahead.

In that sense, I am an eternal optimist and I believe that our outlook on life determines the very life we make for ourselves and the world around us.

Reinforcement of Need for State of Emergency

Ladies and gentlemen, for all of us the past two weeks have been a time of great challenge and sacrifice. This testing period has also been one of great hope and confirmation that together our nation can reclaim the peace, tranquility and safety we once enjoyed.

The decision to impose a State of Emergency was not an easy one and there was much deliberation upon it. In the end, after extensive consultations with members of the Cabinet and the National Security Council, I took the only decision any responsible leader would under those circumstances. Based upon the intelligence available to our Minister of National Security, we had to respond definitively to protect the lives of innocent men, women and children. History will record that because of that decision taken on that day the government averted a crisis of immense proportions and in so doing preserved both the safety of our citizens and the security of the nation. So when I hear critics of this decision measuring what success the State of Emergency has had or will have over time, I know that it was successful from the moment we averted the crisis.

We have had to make some tough decisions, but I want to congratulate and express my thanks to the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago for continuing to co-operate and partner with us, as we work together to restore safety and security to our country. Your sacrifices will not be in vain.

One of the stated Pillars for Sustainable Development of my Government is National and Personal Security. This was our commitment to you and we will continue to do all in our power to ensure the freedom, peace, prosperity and security of all our citizens from all walks of life, and from all communities.

We believe that a safe, comfortable and rewarding life is the right of all our citizens.

Launch of MLI Programme

Those who would suggest that our only plan for reducing crime is to institute a State of Emergency need to take note of what we are doing here today.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with a deep sense of pride and great expectations for a better future that I now formally launch the MLI – Making Life Important - Programme, spearheaded by the Ministry of National Security and led by Senator the Honourable Brigadier General John Sandy.

This programme is representative of the Government's philosophy

for sustainable development and I want to publicly congratulate Minister Sandy and his Ministry, especially the Office of Law Enforcement Policy (OLEP), for promoting this programme.

We are all too painfully aware that when someone believes that he or she has nothing to lose, they become unconcerned about themselves. Their own lives become meaningless and in a frightening ricochet effect, the lives of those around them become of little value as well.

This appropriately named Making Life Important Programme seeks to restore faith in the sanctity of human life and respect for one's physical environment. Its stated aim is to create an environment of peace, order and good-will in specially identified, at-risk communities.

Earlier this year, there was the launch of the National Youth Mentorship programme, another flagship initiative under the Ministry of National Security.

I recall saying then that "we will never be able to turn around our crime situation unless at-risk youths are given the opportunity to change the stigma that is attached to them".

Factors which necessitate MLI

Ladies and gentlemen, we have done our research and I wish to assure you that the MLI has been informed by sound criminological and sociological theories.

We are fully aware that some of our communities, particularly those within the areas of Port-of-Spain, face the challenges of:

* Poverty and inequitable distribution of wealth and opportunities.

* High levels of unemployment

* The collapse of supportive family structures and social relationships

* Inadequate schooling

* The proliferation of street gangs which offer nurturing, protection, friendship, emotional support, and other distractions for unattended, unchaperoned resident youth

* Lack of positive role models for the youth to emulate, in particular "father-figures"

* Physical environments and spaces which have negative impacts on human behaviour – the "Broken Window" Syndrome which suggests that broken windows and smashed cars are visible signs of people not caring about their community and which may give out crime-promoting signals.

The MLI is cognizant of these issues, and therefore will include an approach that will seek to address the various social challenges residents struggle with on a daily basis.

It will also seek to return the law enforcement agencies to the communities, in an effort to create a more harmonious, respectful and cooperative relationship between officers and residents.

Minister Sandy has outlined some of the ways this programme will work.

I therefore am pleased to announce that my Government is fully committed to the Making Life Important programme. We will expend resources, as necessary, and I further commit all my Ministers to this initiative.

My friends, today with this programme we reach out to both the children and their parents... and indeed, our country.

Today, we are also highlighting a partnership approach to addressing social issues. This "Public/Private Partnership" method will include our corporate sector as well as the public sector.

In our presence today, I would like to recognize the contribution of BGTT in this programme, for partnering with us and offering their support, technical expertise and guidance. I acknowledge your effort at making a difference where it is needed most. This is what corporate responsibility is all about.

We look forward to the participation of other corporate entities to work with us as we seek to return our beloved country to an acceptable level of safety, security and prosperity for all.

Other interventions in the Beetham area and environs to alleviate poverty and crime

Already, Ministers have been touring various communities within the Port of Spain area. You may have seen the Minister of Works and Infrastructure, conducting an outreach programme in Laventille.

Dr. Ramadharsingh of the Ministry of the People and Social Development and his team have already brought their Direct Impact Intervention to Beetham and Sea Lots and I am told they are ready to operate a social services desk in the area.

Our Minister of National Security has been meeting residents in most of the communities in the area. I am advised that the work will re-commence shortly on the Beetham Gardens Community Centre.

I now place another responsibility on the broad and able shoulders of Minister Sandy along with his Cabinet colleague, Minister Baksh of the Ministry of Community Development to hasten the completion of the Community

Centre. As well, I call on the East Port-of-Spain Development Company and the Ministry of Local Government to resume or kick start the projects targeted for the Beetham area so that the natural environment becomes a haven for productivity rather than criminal activity.

And I announce that in the vicinity of the Beetham Community Centre, the Government will locate the first Joint Community Services Centre (JCSC) facility.

Subsequently, other centres will be built at strategic locations within the Port of Spain area. The JCSC will host personnel from several governmental agencies, including Ministries.

On-going work of the Ministry of National Security

Apart from these important centres, the Ministry of National Security will continue to work closely with other Ministries on a variety of projects.

Among these will be:

* Literacy programmes with the Ministry of Education;

* The Pan - Positive Adolescent Network - Yard Initiative with Ministry of the Arts and Multiculturalism;

* Abuse Prevention and Reporting with the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development;

* Upgrade works on community centres with Ministry of Community Development;

* Upgrade and Repair of essential public services with the Ministry of Public Utilities;

* Physical works with Ministry of Works and Infrastructure and the Ministry of Local Government;

* Health facilities and services through the Ministry of Health.

Closing Statements

I give you the assurance that together we will win back our communities and our country.

We cannot do it alone. In order to make our communities safer, cleaner and more productive... we need you! We need your support and your commitment to make things work.

In turn you have the commitment of government to invest the time and resources which will, once again, Make Life Important in Trinidad and Tobago and ensure a safer, more peaceful Nation.

So today I ask you to grasp the opportunity which is now before us to make T&T a better place.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you

Cadiz to businessmen: Explore opportunities in China

Guardian Media Sun, 2011-09-25

Trade and Industry Minister Stephen Cadiz is calling on local businessmen to explore the new opportunities that await in China's fast growing market following the success of the China-Caribbean Economic Forum held at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad, Port-of-Spain. In a Sunday Guardian interview the minister said the forum provided opportunities for foreign direct and investment and technical co-operation in areas such as finance infrastructure, tourism and agriculture. "T&T can benefit from greater co-operation in human resource capability, technology transfers and health care. Several co-operation undertakings already exist in the areas of infrastructure development, human resource development and trade in goods and services which make the T&T/China relationship a very important partnership for our country," he said.

Cadiz said the People's Partnership's quest to expand trade and give T&T a stronger presence in the global market was the impetus for the forum which was co-hosted by the People's Republic of China. On Thursday, Chinese energy company Soogl Antilles Trinidad Ltd, a subsidiary of Sinopec International Petroleum Corporation, held a ceremony at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad, located at Dock Road, Port-of-Spain to commission a well SE-1 in T&T's waters. While the energy sector contributes significantly to the national economy, Cadiz said the Ministry of Trade and Industry is mandated to diversify the economy in terms of the non-energy, manufacturing and service sectors, as well as, downstream industries from the energy sector.

"Soogl's presence in this country demonstrates the parent company's commitment to go international to meet China's energy demand to fuel its fast growing economy. In the public/private sector partnership of building our economy, the main driver of business development and expansion is the private sector. However, for business to thrive, it is necessary for government to play a facilitative role in creating an enabling business environment, as well as, promoting opportunities for business," Cadiz said.

T&T signs agreeement with the People's Republic of China for Yuan 40 million grant - news.gov.tt 13 September, 2011

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar on September 12, 2011 hosted bilateral discussions and a luncheon for the visiting Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan and his delegation at the Diplomatic Centre, St Ann's as part of the 3rd China-Caribbean Economic and Trade Cooperation Forum. Following the discussions the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Communications Dr. Surujrattan Rambachan signed an agreement with China for a Yuan 40 million grant.

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar and the Vice Premier of the People's Republic of China Wang Qishan look on as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Communications Dr. Surujrattan Rambachan and Wang Chao, Vice Minister of Commerce of the People's Republic of China sign the agreement.

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar welcomes the Vice Premier of the People's Republic of China Wang Qishan to the Diplomatic Centre, St Ann's.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Communications Dr. Surujrattan Rambachan welcomes the Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan to the Diplomatic Centre, St Ann's.

Appointment of new Overseas Marketing Representatives - news.gov.tt 22 September, 2011

The Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with the Tourism Development Company Limited (TDC), on Wednesday 21st September, presented to local tourism stakeholders and media, the organisations and agencies that were appointed as Trinidad and Tobago Overseas Marketing Representatives in the United Kingdom, USA, Canada, Germany, Scandinavia and the new market of India.

Minister of Tourism Dr. Rupert Griffith with Sandra Perkins, CEO of the Tourism Development Company (centre) and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism Melba Dedier

The new Overseas Marketing Representatives are as follows:

Cheryl Andres Marketing - United States of America
AVIAREPS AG - Germany
AVIAREPS Tourism Canada
Spirit Company - Scandinavia
Advanced Management Group (AMG) Ltd - United Kingdom
Beautiful Planet - India

The heads of the Overseas Representatives left to right are Cheryl Andrews (US); Christine Engen (Scandinavia); Peggie Kieda (Canada) Minister of Tourism Dr. Rupert Griffith; Nadine Rankin (UK); Beena Menon (India) and Anke-Andrea Sponet (Germany)

These organisations will represent and brand the Trinidad and Tobago product and will be responsible for developing and implementing strategic public relations and marketing programs to aggressively promote Trinidad and Tobago.

The International Marketing Representatives will also be tasked with the responsibility of evaluating and mitigating any threats to the reputation and positive image of Trinidad and Tobago in our key source markets.

In presenting the Overseas Representatives, Dr. The Hon. Rupert T. Griffith, the Minister of Tourism, pointed out that "all the required due diligence was done to ensure that all the representatives deliver to the people of Trinidad full value for money". The selection of the International Marketing Representatives also coincided with the appointment of a new strategic team at the TDC, which is the marketing and implementation agency of the Ministry of Tourism. A new Chief Executive Officer, in the person of Mrs. Sandra Perkins, has been appointed.

The job of an Overseas Marketing Representative is quite important in this challenging international economic environment since branding and image have become critical to tourism destinations. Competition is intense among traditional and emerging tourism destinations making branding even more important.

During their visit to Trinidad and Tobago, the International Marketing Representatives visited various tourist attractions in order to better understand the product. They met with tourism stakeholders and the broader tourism community so as to ensure a clear appreciation of the marketing needs and challenges of Trinidad and Tobago.

Curfew extended to eleven new areas news.gov.tt

September 14, 2011: Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar has announced eleven new areas as well as the maritime boundary as being under the curfew hours of 11 pm to 4 am, effective Wednesday.

She made the announcement on Tuesday at the Office of the Prime Minister in St Clair, Port of Spain following a marathon seven-hour-long meeting of the National Security Council at the same venue.

The 11 new areas are Carli Bay; Maloney; Moruga; Cedros; Claxton Bay; Toco; Dow Village; California; La Horquetta; Windy Hill, Arouca; McBean, Couva and Chase Village, Carapichaima.

The Prime Minister said also to be subjected to the curfew will be "those areas on land around the 362 kilometres of our Trinidad and Tobago coastline and that will extend outward, outland three nautical miles" .

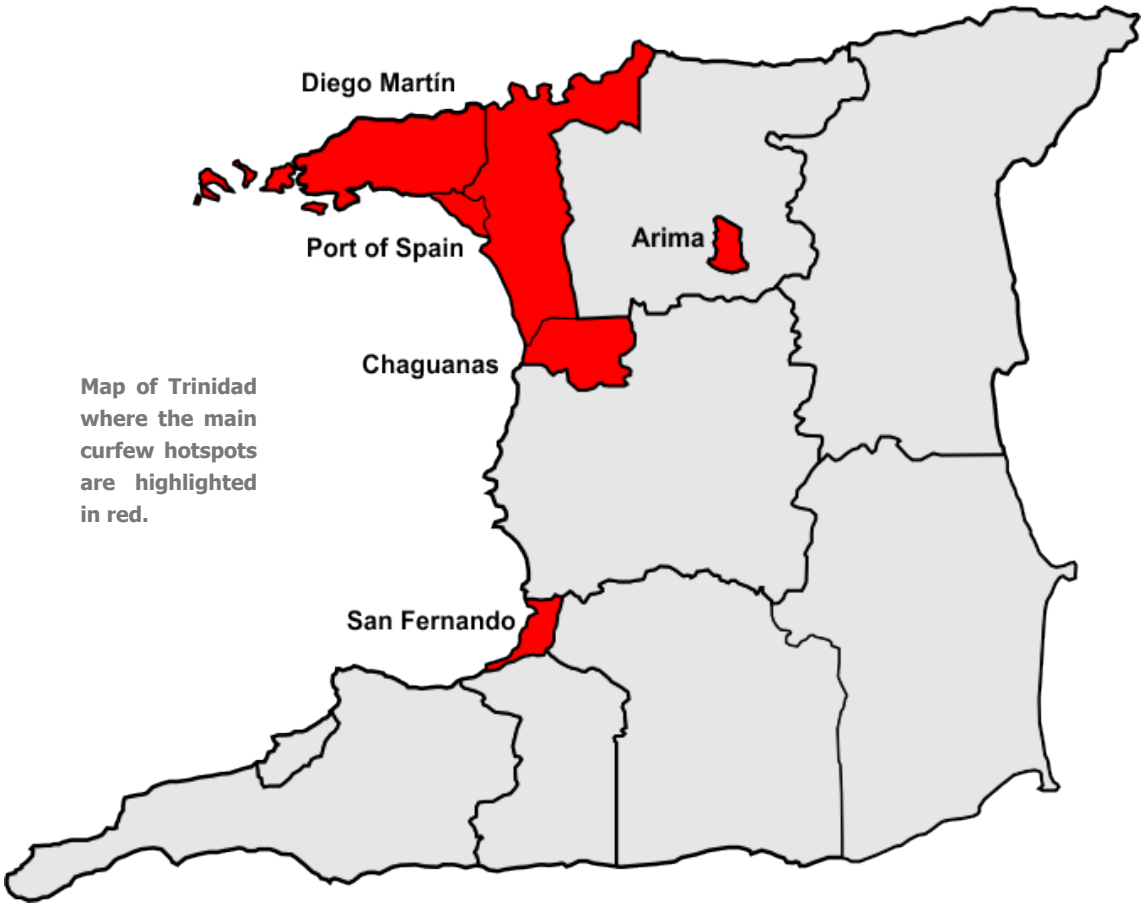
Persad-Bissessar said, "Based on the intelligence we have from the Police and the Army the boundaries will be demarcated. We will work on that (today) and those will be demarcated in the exact way we would want to have gazetted for those areas to include in the curfew."

The areas initially announced as being under the curfew since the start of the State of Emergency on August 21, and which still remains under curfew are San Fernando; Port of Spain; Arima; Chaguanas; San Juan and Diego Martin.

"I just want to give the reassurance that our plans to ensure the safety of our citizens are well advanced. We are collecting new intelligence as we are going along and this has caused us to add new areas under curfew and I want to tell you quite honestly I intend to win this war," Persad-Bissessar said.

"This is a fight which is not only between the government and the criminals, this is a fight between our citizens, our people and the criminals. Our protective services are working extremely hard and I ask all of you to continue to support them with information," she said.

"We are all in this, we will win together. No criminal will be allowed to deny our country and its citizens of their freedom. I want to give the assurance I will not abandon this fight. I will pursue this to the end to ensure that our country and our people are safe," Persad-Bissessar said.



Map of Trinidad where the main curfew hotspots are highlighted in red.

Trinidad and Tobago Rocks Ipswich

Photos: Darrin des Vignes

Photo: (Clockwise from top left) Montage of CSI Steel Orchestra performing on the Caribbean Stage in Christchurch Park. His Excellency Garvin Nicholas addresses the crowd and the relaxed atmosphere at the Ipswich Arts Festival.

Pan and calypso took over as Trinidad and Tobago featured predominantly at the Ipswich Arts Festival, Caribbean exposé on Saturday 02 July 2011 at the Christchurch Park, Ipswich in the United Kingdom.

The event was an explosion in cultural arts from around the Caribbean and was attended by thousands of British nationals over the period of the festival.

His Excellency High Commissioner Mr. Garvin Nicholas supported the event and attended together with a contingent of staff from the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission and nationals from throughout the United Kingdom.

The event presented an ideal opportunity to promote Trinidad and Tobago both as a destination and a cultural showcase.
There was an exciting line up of Calypso and Steel Orchestras which included the award winning CSI Steelband based in the UK and the Ipswich Youth Steel Band.

High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas addressed the large crowd and proceeded to invite them to visit Trinidad and Tobago to experience the rich diversity and cultural experiences together with its eco tourism, sandy beaches and warm hospitality of its people.

The High Commissioner also gave a live interview with BBC Radio Suffolk and invited all listeners to visit the islands to experience the Carnival in 2012 and beyond.

The evening ended on a high note with an hour long performance by Lima, former singer with Blue Ventures and Byron Lee and the Dragonnaires. The crowd called for more with Lima giving lessons on dancing the 'palance'.

High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas promised that next year would be bigger and better as he would invite more artistes to showcase the depth of diversity that is Trinidad and Tobago culture.

This event is just one in a series of outreach events the High Commissioner has initiated to broaden the reach of Trinidad and Tobago culture in the UK.

Notting Hill Carnival 2011 VIP Launch Reception

H.E. Garvin Nicholas with pannists.

On Thursday 4th August, friends and stakeholders of the London Notting Hill Carnival Ltd met at the residence of High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas, to officially launch the 2011 festival.

Peter Ramage, Director of Culture, Leisure and Waste Management, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Ancil Barclay, Director of Notting Hill Carnival Ltd

Guests applauding the High Commissioner's speech

H.E. Garvin Nicholas addressing the guests

Donna Chin Lee, Director of the Trinindad and Tobago Entertainment Company

Nikisha Reyes-Piles, Calypsonian

Photos: Darrin des Vignes

Notting Hill Carnival

Photos: Darrin des Vignes

Snapshots 2011

Photos: Darrin des Vignes

Minister Peters launches the 'Remember When Institute Webpage' and Exhibition

Snapshot of the Ministry of The Arts and Multiculturalism's new online resource 'The Remember When Institute' - http://www.culture.gov.tt/rememberwheninstitute/home.html

Minister of the Arts and Multiculturalism, the Honourable Winston Peters, formally launched the Remember When Institute Webpage and Exhibition on Friday 9th September, 2011 at the National Academy for the Performing Arts.

The Cultural Archives, a unit within the Division of Culture, has been collecting the memories of Trinidad and Tobago since 1971 through the then National Cultural Council (NCC). This collection holds thousands of memories stored in various media. Over the past two years, the staff at the unit has been digitizing the material and today more than 3,000 of these 'memory books' have been digitized.

The Honourable Winston Peters

The repository for these and all our memories will provide not only access to the general public of a store house of our intangible heritage but a systemised approach to the continued recording and storage of our memories for future generations.
Some of the goals and objectives of this project are to safeguard our cultural heritage, public education and the creation of an interactive space/e-hub *par excellence* that showcases aspects of our cultural heritage.

In his remarks, Minister Peters stated that, 'remembering as a people is very important to the survival of a culture. Our shared heritage creates a collective understanding of who we are as Trinbagonians. I take immense pride in opening this exhibition and my only hope is that others will attend and benefit from these valuable human treasures that I have had the pleasure of viewing'.

Pan Greats Honoured in London

Photos: Darrin des Vignes

L-R Back Row: Sterling Betancourt, Keith Diaz President Pan Trinbago, H.E. Garvin Nicholas (High COmmissioner), Joel Langton (Son of Lennox Langton), Peter Joseph, Fred Totesaut **Front row:** Sonny Blacks, Trevor Cumberbatch, Cyril Khama, Miguel Barradas **Sitting**: Michelle Cumberbatch (on behalf of Russell Valdez) Angela Christopher and Carol Contant

The Commonwealth Arts and Cultural Foundation in association with His Excellency Mr Garvin Nicholas, High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago held its Steelpan Awards 2011 at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London on Tuesday 26th July 2011.

The event was held to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the Trinidad All Steel Percussion Steel Orchestra (TASPO) and the Golden Jubilee of the Dixieland Steel Orchestra. To recognise and commemorate these two historic events, the Year 2011 has been designated and declared the 'Year of the Steel Pan'.

The Trinidad All Steel Percussion Steel Orchestra (TASPO) was the first steel band to perform in the United Kingdom. This steelband performed at the South Bank, London on July 26th 1951. Trinidad and Tobago was the only country in the British Empire to perform in the UK even though all the other British colonies were invited including India and other African and Caribbean countries. It was organised by the Steel Band Association and headed by Mr. Sidney Gollop, the first President of the Steel Band Association.

In May 1961, the Dixieland Steel Orchestra came to the United Kingdom after winning the National Steel Band Music Festival in Trinidad and Tobago.

His Excellency Garvin Nicholas, in his welcome address, spoke about the significance of the Steel Pan and its contribution to the musical art form in the United Kingdom. He acknowledged that the steel pan was making significant inroads into most countries on all continents but that persons must not forget that Trinidad and Tobago is the birth place of 'this fine instrument'. He commented on the contribution of Mr. Sonny Blacks, Artistic Director, Commonwealth Arts, who was instrumental in organising the evening's event.

High Commissioner ended his welcome by wishing

the honourees all the best for the future and thanked them for their contribution in making the pan the most versatile instrument ever invented and for helping to put Trinidad and Tobago on the world map together with other great musical geniuses.

A number of Steel pan icons were present on the night. They included Keith Diaz, President of Pan Trinbago. Mr. Diaz, in his address, spoke about the history of pan which he described as 'a chronicle of extraordinary achievement and of extraordinary men and women who sacrificed life, limb and reputation in their attempts to place the instrument in its proper niche'. Mr. Diaz spoke about the three day International Conference on the steelpan to be hosted next year by Pan Trinbago and his impending visit to Nigeria to meet persons interested in pan. Another notable pan icon, Mr. Nestor Sullivan, Pamberi Steel Orchestra, was present at the Awards Ceremony.

Among the Awardees was Mr. Sterling Betancourt – TASPO, who received an award from Her Majesty on behalf of TASPO. Mr Betancourt has been acknowledged as the main steel pan player and tuner responsible for keeping pan alive in the United Kingdom.

Other awardees included Mr Miguel Barradas, Dixieland, Mr. Alfred Totesaut, Dixieland, Mr. Trevor Cumberbatch, Dixieland, Mr. Lennox Langton, Dixieland, Mr. Russell Valdez, Dixieland, Mr. Michael 'Natsi' Contant – Tuner of Dixieland (RIP), Ms. Angela Christopher, Dancer of Dixieland, Mr. Sonny Blacks, Manager of Dixieland. Two surprise awards were also given to Mr. Peter Joseph and Mr. Cyril Khamai for their contribution to the steelpan movement in the United Kingdom.

There was also a commemorative concert at the South Bank after the Awards Ceremony at the High Commission. This concert featured the CSI Youth Steelband led by Mr. Brent Holder, a national of Trinidad and Tobago.

Photos: Left and right - CSI steelband playing tributes at the prize giving ceremony.

Trinidadian wins Best Young Designer award in Santo Domingo

http://www.guardian.co.tt - Wed, 14-09-2011

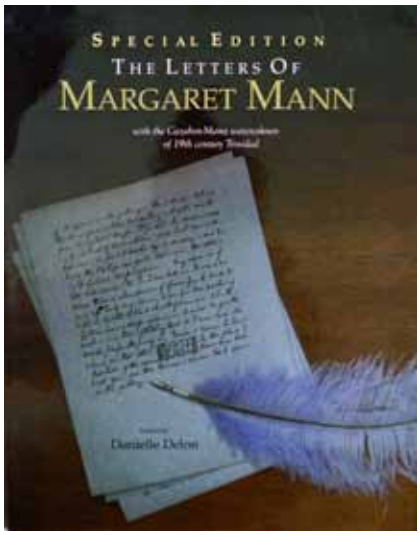
Kirie Ishmael, a student of the Visual Arts Unit of the Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA), recently copped the "Best Young Designer" Award at the Design Caribbean show which took place from September 1–4 in Santo Domingo, in the Dominican Republic. Ishmael won the award for her Design 3 project—Ibis-inspired jewelry. The DCFA was well represented at the show, as five students (including Ishmael) displayed work at the design fair. The other four students (and recent graduates) included Jade Achoy, Anyah McNeill, Natrisha Gangapersad and Ann Marie Samsoondar.

The students benefitted from the opportunity to discuss their work with practitioners, international buyers and meet creative people from all over the Caribbean. The Visual Arts Unit of the DCFA also played a major role in the Contemporary Caribbean Collection project which was well received at the show, through the collaboration of design lecturer, Lesley-Ann Noel and Italian design consultants Giulio and Valerio Vinaccia, and 11 local artisans and designers.

This was made possible through a collaborative effort between the International Trade Centre (ITC), the Caribbean Export Development Agency, the National Entrepreneurship Development Company (NEDCO) and the Visual Arts Unit of the DCFA. This collaboration has already begun to bear fruit, with some of the artisans and designers being invited to work more closely with the students during the semester through guest lectures and joint product development. Noel and Vinaccia will also continue to work together, as Noel will spend two weeks in Canada in October doing research with Vinaccia and Dr Anne Marchand of the University of Montreal through the Faculty Leadership Pilot Programme.

Kirie Ishmael, right, receiving the "Best Young Designer" Award for her Design 3 project—Ibis-inspired jewelry.

Letters of Margaret Mann Book Launch



The Letters of Margaret Mann published in Trinidad, made their way back to Britain on Tuesday 7th June with the launch of the eponymous title at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission in London.

The letters, written by the young Margaret Mann, the wife of a Royal Engineer sent to serve under the then Governor, Lord Harris, between 1847-1851, are a unique record of life in Trinidad at that time. Official histories are valuable but the rarity of the female, domestic perspective gives the letters their particular value.

Margaret Mann came from Guernsey in the Channel Islands. Her letters were lodged at the Bodleian Library, Oxford, by her granddaughter Dame Kathleen Courtney, where Trinidadian Danielle Delon, found them. She matched them with the Cazabon-Mann collection of watercolours of Trinidad scenes, now at the National Museum and Art Gallery in Port of Spain, and created and published, in collaboration with the Museum, the 475-page title.

Ms Delon recently presented a lecture on the letters and the artistic work produced by Mann under the tutelage of the Master, Michel Jean Cazabon, at an international symposium at the University of Essex called "Painting the Caribbean", and took the opportunity granted by our High Commissioner, Mr. Garvin Nicholas, in London, to present the work to an engrossed and diverse audience of UK dignitaries and nationals in London. On the occasion, Dr. Samuel Fanous, Head of Communications and Publishing at the Bodleian, Oxford, spoke of the importance of the book as a historical reference work and of its accessibility and enjoyment for students of Caribbean history and also to general readers. Amanda Bennet of the Prialux library, Guernsey, also talked of the significance of the book to the Guernsey archives.

At the launch, funded by the Ministry of Arts and Multiculturalism through the National Museum and Art Gallery, and the Tourism Development Company, Deputy High Commissioner, Ms Roanna Gopaul, underlined the contribution of the publication of The Letters of Margaret Mann in broadening and deepening the definition of Trinidad and Tobago cultural expression. Copies of the book are available from the National Museum and Art Gallery in Port of Spain and the High Commission of Trinidad and Tobago in London.

High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas launches 'Claudia Jones: Beyond Containment' in London

Photos: Darrin des Vignes

High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas delivers his address to guests at the book launch of 'Claudia Jones: Beyond Containment'

The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission hosted the launch of the book 'Claudia Jones: Beyond Containment' on Wednesday September 28, 2011.

'Claudia Jones: Beyond Containment' was edited by fellow Trinidadian Carole Boyce Davies, Professor of Africana Studies at Cornell University, United States.

The book was published by Ghanian-born Nana Ayebia Clarke MBE, of Ayebia Clarke Publishing Limited, United Kingdom, who felt compelled and committed to publish Claudia

Jones: Beyond Containment as a way of continuing the important connections that Claudia Jones created between Africa and the Caribbean Diaspora as a result of strengthening the ties and the legacy of collaboration between Africa and its Diasporas.

The book launch was attended by a number of dignitaries including Ms. Diane Abbott, Member of Parliament, Dr Margaret Busby, another fellow Trinidad and Tobago publisher based in the United Kingdom and other nationals of Trinidad and Tobago.

Claudia Jones was a Trinidad and Tobago born activist and intellectual who influenced worldwide struggles for civil rights for workers and women for social justice. She was an artist and a visionary. She will be most remembered for the Notting Hill Carnival.

Following is the text of High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas's speech delivered on the night:

'Ladies and Gentlemen
We celebrate another daughter of the soil.

Claudia Jones was born in Belmont, Port of Spain, Trinidad. Like so many of our brothers and sisters, she travelled to the United States with her parents to seek a better way of life. She spent her early years in the United States making and leaving a mark on that country's history.

She was an active member of local communist politics. She worked as a newspaper reporter. She was a human and civil rights activist and became a renowned public speaker and journalist. Unfortunately, due to events in the United States she left that country and came to the United Kingdom. She remained here until her death in 1964.

Claudia Jones made a name for herself in British society as a public intellectual. In 1958 she founded and edited The West Indian Gazette and Afro-Asian Caribbean News, Britain's first black newspaper.

She will be most remembered as the mother of Notting Hill Carnival which became her biggest contribution and lasting legacy to the United Kingdom. She started this Carnival in 1959. Claudia recognised the thirst from fellow West Indians for things that would remind them of back home. As quoted by her "If our Caribbean Carnival has evoked the wholehearted response from the peoples from all the islands of the Caribbean in the West Indies Federation, this is itself testament to the role of the arts in bringing people together for common aims and to its fusing of the cultural, spiritual, as well as political and economic interests of West Indians in the UK and at home".

One of the main things that this book: Claudia Jones - Beyond Containment - actually brings out is the fact that Claudia Jones was not just an intellectual but also an artist.

She wrote brilliant and beautiful poetry and played the piano. In short there were many facets to her creativity. She believed in Arts and Culture as a catalyst for change hence the Notting Hill Carnival still exists today and will keep growing and benefitting our society and community. As said by her 'A Peoples' Art is the genesis of their freedom'.

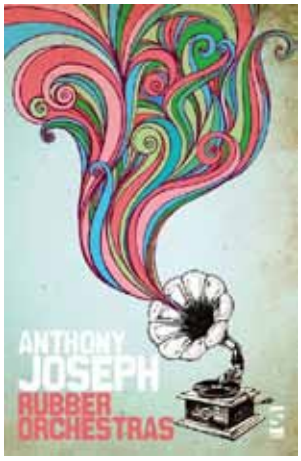
It is indeed an honour to be launching this book, fittingly here at this High Commission. Claudia has come home.

Have a good evening.'

This speech was well received by the attendees and as the Editor, Professor Carole Boyce Davies said "these words are appropriate for the book launch as it feels as if Claudia Jones has finally come home, back to Trinidad and Tobago".

NOTICE

There will be no Nationals Meeting on the 26th October in recognition of the religious celebration of Divali. The next meeting will be held on November 30th and will feature the launch of 'Rubber Orchestras', a book by Anthony Joseph.



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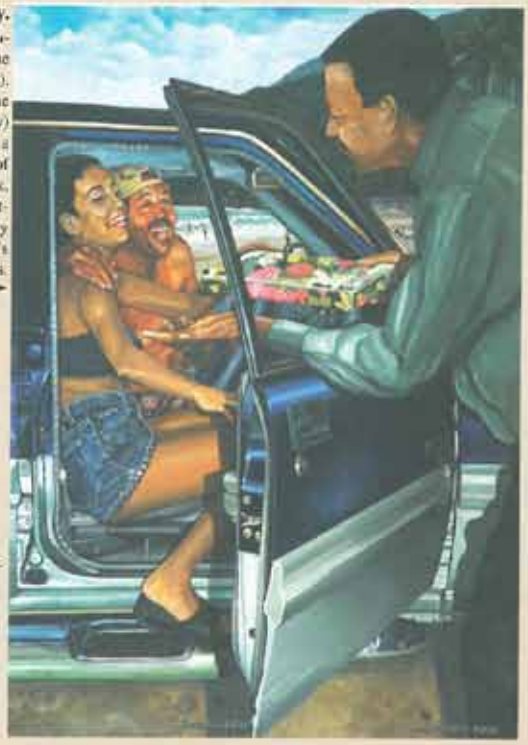
Toutoulebay.
From *French Toutou*-Doggy. *Le bas*- the lowly (puppy dog). To follow someone around (like a puppy) while being in a besotted state of mind. Love sick, completely fascinated with, thoroughly smitten by Cupid's arrows.

Every bread have a cheese.
A worldwide phenomenon that never fails to amaze. How can that good-looking person be with someone so unattractive? It proves that looks aren't everything.



Little axe does cut down big tree.
No hurdle is insurmountable. A very positive approach to problems that we face in life. It may appear at times that we face overwhelming odds.

Macoin'.
From *French-Maquereau* – big-eyed mackerel. The patois expression **'Maco'** may have come from the French but everyone engages in this worldwide pastime, as it is only natural to investigate any commotion.

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Photos: Darrin des Vignes

NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL 2011